

# Report of the Executive of the New Jersey Urban League

Sept 1, 1919.

The vacation month of August presented us with fewer complex situations with which to deal, but it gave us one of our finest opportunities for co-operation. The use of part of the office as one of the City Food Stations brought to us hundreds of people from Newark and neighboring cities, who were not acquainted with our work.

It is particularly significant that fifty percent of the buyers were white people of the neighborhood, and this gave us the chance of breaking down a barrier in our immediate surroundings among people whose good will we had never before been sure of. An expression from one white lady indicates very pointedly the success of this particular co-operation. She said "I have come all the way from down Neck by the car barns, because I have heard of your efficient and courteous service". Up to date we have sold \$1606.46 worth of ham, bacon, canned goods, sugar. To me it appears that the amount of sales is inconsiderate, the service in creating a new viewpoint for the League being the item of importance.

The National Medical Convention convening here the last week of August, gave the League another opportunity for large co-operative service. Our office was used as their registration and general information headquarters. Nearly 100 of the physicians from all parts of the country registered here, and used the office as a distributing agency for mail, and telegrams. Particularly expressive and encouraging was a comment paid us by a visiting physician, who is member of the Detroit Urban League.

Our Employment shows a decided increase in applicants and placements each month. In July the applicants were 24, placements were 34 more. next page.

By the courtesy of the Y.M.C.A. we secured ninety tickets for adults and children for a free excursion to Asbury Park on the annual Y.M.C.A. excursion. Thru the City Fresh Air Department, fifty-two tickets were given to children for a week's outing at Camp Newark; many expressed the pleasure and benefit of the trip. Co-operating with the Central Community Boys' Work nearly 100 boys were given an opportunity to see a base ball game free, between the Newark and Baltimore base ball teams. This was the third season on and work.

The number of applicants for rooms continues large, but we are helpless in locating houses due to the conditions except in individual cases of males or couples who want to do light housekeeping. Two young ladies who made application for entrance in Lincoln Hospital for Nurses course during last month, have finished them and expect to enter this term. One made application for entrance in a girl's school in Washington. Application was made also by the parents of a lad of eight years to enter New Lisbon Home for Defective Children. A discharged soldier who had been robbed was given immediate relief thru calling the Red Cross and War Camp Community Service.

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312 BANK STREET NEWARK, N. J.

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Part of the Executive continued-2-

With the exception of a conference at Trenton with the Director of the State Department of Child Hygiene, meetings and gatherings of almost all kinds were discontinued in August. Indications now point to the rapid resumption of the use of the building for group and club work. *William Trenton Conference*

Since our last Executive meeting there have been several very sore and grievous events which effect the relationship of the two races. I refer to the Washington, Chicago, and Knoxville outbreaks, and the Austen, Texas affair. It is difficult to understand why these untoward events should be when all of us are absolutely confident that there are more kindly spirited white people, more deeply interested in our advancement now than there have been at any time, since the period of the abolitionists. While our immediate vicinity has been encouragingly friendly, we cannot tell where frictions are likely to occur. It occurs to me, therefore, that the League should take some official action in getting to both races the information that it stands for racial harmony and that it is willing to act as wisely as possible should any trouble occur. Another situation which will come to us in an unfavorable light sooner or later is that created by organized labor. It is known that one of the Organizations affiliated with the A. F. of L. is already creating discriminatory union against Negro ship workers. More information should be gotten on their intentions and the men of the shipyards in Newark at least be informed of their intentions.

The closing of saloons too is going to effect the community in two important ways, one; the traffic of liquors illegally, a practice commonly known as "bootlegging" which was in part the cause of the Washington outbreak; and two, the springing up of new dance halls, probably unregulated, which will certainly lower our moral standard if we do not meet it. The appointment of one or two colored women to work with girls would very materially decrease these immoral gains.

In short as we turn to the renewal of our work, a serious reorganization and appointment of new working groups must be made. I suggest specially five committees: 1-- finance; 2-- steering; 3-- education; 4-- recreation and organization; 5-- Friendly Visitors.

Yours respectfully,

*William M. Ashby,*  
Executive Secretary

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Miscellaneous

The advertisement in the Observer did not bring desired results and was therefore cancelled after two weeks. Three hundred cards were printed and many have been placed in conspicuous places to attract girls. A period of 10 days vacation was given to the workers. Because of the extremely busy period, it was impossible to do anything on the Three Hundred Years Anniversary Celebration.

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